

**NASELLE-GRAYS RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 155**  
**Pacific County, Washington**  
**September 1, 1991 Through August 31, 1994**

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**Schedule Of Findings**

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1.     The District Should Follow Bid Laws

During the 1993-94 school year, the district called for bids to remodel school facilities. The lowest responsible bid received was \$4,749,000 which was approximately \$500,000 more than the district had estimated the cost to be. Rather than rejecting all bids and soliciting new bids for a scaled down remodel job, the district entered into negotiations with its architect/engineer and the apparent low bidder. The district then awarded the contract to the low bidder and immediately issued a change order reducing the scope of the work and the price by \$576,826.

RCW 28A.335.190 states in part:

. . . (3) Every building, improvement, repair or other public works project, the cost of which is estimated to be in excess of seventy-five hundred dollars . . . shall be on a competitive basis . . .

. . . (4) The contract for the work or purchase shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder as defined in RCW 43.19.1911 but the board may by resolution reject any and all bids and make further calls for bids in the same manner as the original call . . . .

By not rejecting all bids and rebidding the new project, the district prevented other potential bidders from bidding on the now smaller project. Conceivably, one of the rejected bidders or an entirely new bidder may have submitted a lower quote than was subsequently negotiated.

The district did not reject all bids and rebid a reduced scope project due to the probability that state matching funds would be lost.

We recommend district officials follow bid laws in the future.